

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the Abstract, with the following :

ABSTRACT

The invention relates to the use of metal gluconate salts as antimicrobial agents for the manufacture of substrates based on fibres, especially cellulosic fibres.

The invention further relates to substrates based on fibres, especially cellulosic fibres, comprising said metal salts as antimicrobial agent.

The present invention also relates to a method for manufacturing a finished product having antibacterial activity comprising treating at least one face of a substrate comprising at least 50% by weight of cellulosic fibers with a composition containing as sole antimicrobial agent, a metal gluconate chosen in the group consisting of zinc gluconate, silver gluconate, copper gluconate or mixtures thereof.